Servicemembers Opportunity Colleges

SOC

Serving the Voluntary Higher Education Needs of the Military Services

Before SOC, earning a college degree was almost impossible for servicemembers....

- Mobile lifestyle made it difficult to complete a degree program at one college
- Colleges had rigid academic residency requirements
- Colleges were reluctant to accept transfer credit from other institutions
- Few colleges recognized non-

SOC was established in 1972...

- To help servicemembers overcome geographic and institutional obstacles
- To enable servicemembers to complete degree programs

What is SOC?

- Non-profit organization
- Serving 500,000 active duty servicemembers; 600,000 veterans, Guardmembers and Reservists
- Sponsoring Agencies
  - American Association of State Colleges and Universities
  - American Association of Community Colleges
- Cooperating Agencies
  - 13 National Higher Education Associations
  - The Military Services (Reserve and Active Components)
  - The Department of Defense and the Office of the Secretary Defense
- Consortium of over 1,800 Member Institutions:

  66% Public 54% Four-year

SOC Principles

Servicemembers are entitled to:_

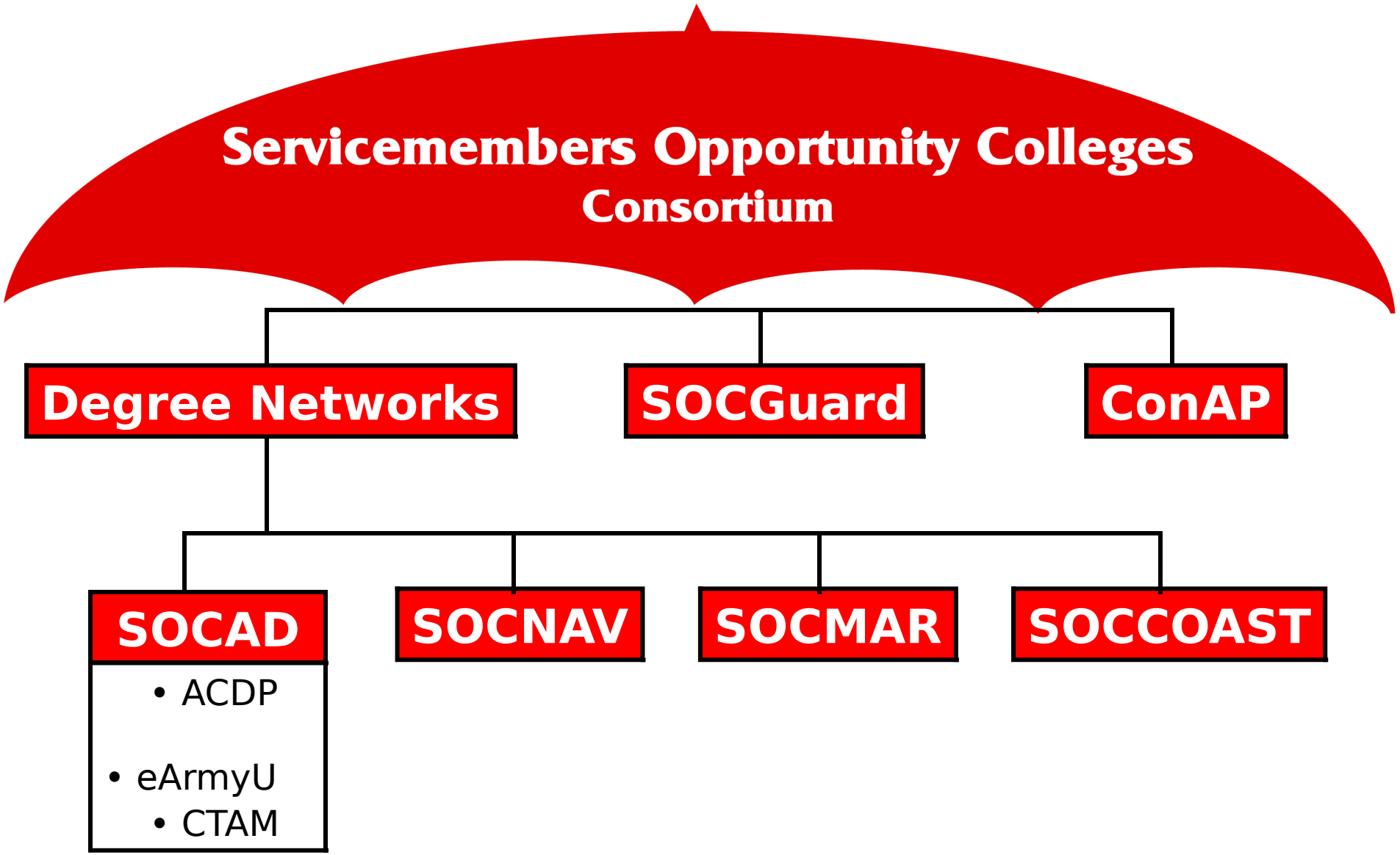
- Share educational opportunities available to their civilian counterparts
- Access education programs that are provided by appropriately accredited colleges and universities
- Flexible academic procedures including:
  - Scheduling
  - Academic Residency
  - Course Transfer
  - Acceptance of non-traditional credit

SOC Criteria

- Reasonable transfer of credit
- Academic residency requirements
- Crediting learning from military training and experience
- Crediting extra-institutional learning

SOC Advocacy

- Education community input to state and federal legislation
  - Updated/expanded education benefits for servicemembers
  - Issues and concerns impacting the recruiting and retention of a high quality all-voluntary military force
  - Veterans Affairs Committee on Education
- Troubleshooting, Counseling and Referral
- Recent/Current Concerns
  - Reserve/Guard students called to active duty
  - Recruiter campus access
- Publications and Marketing


Servicemembers Opportunity Colleges
Consortium
Degree Networks
SOCGuard
ConAP
SOCAD
SOCNAV
SOCMAR
SOCCOAST
• ACDP
• eArmyU
• CTAM

Consortium vs. Degree Network Membership

SOC Consortium Membership	SOC Degree Network Membership
• Serving widely dispersed military - reservists, recruiters, National Guard	• SOC Degree Network participation: SOCAD, SOCMAR, SOCNAV, SOCCOAST
• Academic residency limited to 25% (30% for programs offered 100% online)	• Same
• Accept credits for at least one standardized testing program	• Same
• *ACE Guide* credit recommendations for training (Service schools)	• *ACE Guide* credit recommendations for training (Service Schools) and military occupational experience
• Reasonable transfer	• Two-Way Guaranteed transfer of specific courses
• General evaluation and degree planning	• Formal evaluation of prior learning/degree planning tool in form of the SOC Student Agreement

Types of Degree Network Membership

Core Institutions

GUARANTEED-TRANSFER NETWORKS

- Guaranteed course transfer in high-demand subject areas (networks)
- Expanded Course Category coverage in major and major-related areas

AUXILIARY NETWORKS

- Expansion of program listings to cover subject areas outside existing Guaranteed-Transfer Networks
- Enhanced degree program visibility by location and delivery method
- Foundation for developing

Affiliate Institutions

- Match military specialty needs (not covered by core institutions) as requested by military services
- Degree programs unique and highly specialized, not covered within Guaranteed-Transfer or Auxiliary Networks
- No guaranteed course transferability or network participation

(Since 1989)

SOCGuard

Linking Higher Education & The Army National Guard

The Army National Guard

- Maintains a presence in 50 states and 4 jurisdictions
- Approximately 350,000 members
- Under peacetime control of the governor through the Adjutant General (State mission)
- Trained and available for mobilization to support national security objectives (Federal mission)
- Major contributor of forces to current overseas operations

SOCGuard Mission

To Integrate Postsecondary Education with Army National Guard Strength Maintenance Activities Supporting Recruiting and Retention through Education.

The SOCGuard Program/ Staff Functions

- Serve as the higher education liaison and advisor to the Army National Guard (ARNG)
- Assist the state Education Services Officer (ESO) in college outreach
- Assist ARNG to recruit and retain college-capable soldiers
- Encourage ARNG members to make maximum use of their education benefits
- Support to ESOs, unit, and soldiers on issues related to activation and mobilization
- Manage ESC Partners with the Education

SOCGuard Support of the ARNG

- **Advisory and Outreach**
  - Design and Develop College Workshops
  - Campus Visits
  - Higher Education Conferences
  - Marketing Support/Promote ARNG Benefits
- **Recruiting and Retention**
  - In-State Recruiter Training
  - Recruiting on College Campuses
  - Apprenticeships
- **Activation and Mobilization**
- **Education Benefits**
- **SOCGuard Website**
- **Promote Academic Partnerships**

SOC Programs and the ARNG

- Advantage for Guard soldiers and family members to consider SOC schools first
  - Agreement to adhere to SOC Criteria
  - Accredited Institution in good standing
  - Soldier support/troubleshooting

- SOC network programs available to ARNG soldiers and family members
  - Protection of student agreement
  - Guaranteed transferability of credit
  - Relevant because of increased activations/deployments

SOCGuard Contribution to the ARNG

- Provide access and enhance ARNG credibility with the higher education community
- Broker partnerships at the state-level between the ARNG and institutions
- Information source for colleges,

  soldiers, recruiting force
- Extension of the Army National Guard education staff to resolve problems and answer questions

ARNG Education Support Cente

Education Support Center

- Provides Credit Assessment
- Provides Degree Plan Options
- Provides Counseling Services

State Education Services Office

- Federal Tuition Assistance
- State-Funded Tuition Education Programs
- GI Bill Eligibility Determination
- Administers Testing
- Counseling

Viable Education Options for ARNG Soldiers, Spouses, and Civilian Employees

Why Do Colleges Support Servicemembers?

- Students with $ for college
  - Hedge against college dropout rates
  - Opportunity for institutions to increase enrollment and revenues
- Good students
  - Mature; disciplined; academic and professional focus
  - High retention; high graduation rate
  - Maintain good GPA
- Opportunity to increase enrollments/revenues
- Investment in community, state, and nation

Partnership Opportunities

- Recruiters can be an extension of what you already do (counseling, recruiting, coaching, etc.)
- Cohort Programs
- Armory-based course delivery
- Military Education Programs (MOS-related, other programs)
- Distance Learning Classrooms/DTTP
- Special academic incentives (scholarships, waivers, etc.)
- Financial Aid Nights; College Fairs; Career Fairs
- Link college financial aid page to state ARNG sites

SOCGuard Website

- About SOCGuard
- For Colleges & Universities
- For High School/College Students
- For Guard Soldiers
- For ARNG ESOs and

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